THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL)': (a) and (b) During the period August, 1988 to January, 1989, 44.66% flights of Indian Airlines were delayed or cancelled as compared to 29,99% during the corresponding period of the previous year.

(c) The follwing steps have been taken in order to improve punctuality:—

(i) Overall utilisation of Boeing aircraft has been reduced so as to provide standby capacity at base stations.

(ii) Additional aircrafts have been leased from various sources.

(iii) Punctuality of flights has been constantly monitored at various levels.

National Tourism Board

141. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to answer to U.Q. 1798 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th August, 1988 and State:

(a) whether Government have since examined the recommendations of the National Committee on Tourism; if so, whether Government propose to set up a National Tourism Board, on the lines of the Railway Board, in order to give a boost to tourism and hotel industry in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that clearance of some Agencies/Departments have been accorded for the setting up of such a board; and

(c) if so, to what extent the tourism industry is likely to be benefited after the setting up of such a board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) to (c) The recommendations of the National Committee on Tourism "have been examined and a number of them have been accepted. However, a final decision on the establishment of a National Tourism Board is yet to be taken in consultation with different Departments.

Discussion of SAARC Summit

142. SHRI P. N. SUKUl. : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what subjects were discussed at the summit of SAARC countries held at Islamabad held in December, 1988;

(b) whether the question of combating the menace of terrorism was also discussed;

(c) what are the results of these discussions and to what extent the meeting was successful;

(d) whether any new pacts were signed on the occasion for promoting regional cooperation among SAARC countries; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS; (PROF. K.K. TEWARI) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House *(See* below).

(d) No, Sir,

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

At the Fourth SAARC Summit field in Islamabad from 29—31 December, 1988. the' Heads of State' or Government discussed a wide range of subjects concerning cooperation among the member countries following which the following major decisions were taken :

(i) Education was included as an area of cooperation and a Technical Committee set up to work out a programme of work in this area.